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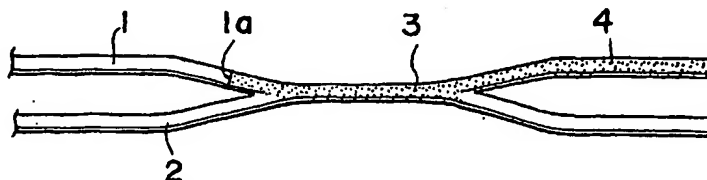
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(54) **An optical fiber coupler, a process for fabricating the same and an optical amplifier using the same**

(57) The optical fiber coupler comprises: a rare earth-doped fiber (4) as an optical amplifying element; a quasi rare earth-doped fiber (2) for entrance of input signal light; a fused-stretch fiber portion (3) as a multiplexing element which connects a part of the rare earth-doped fiber and a part of the quasi rare earth-doped fiber, wherein the fused-stretch fiber portion formed by stretched a fused mixture of parts of the rare earth-doped fiber and the quasi rare earth-doped fiber; and a single mode (1) fiber which is jointed at a fused joint portion to another shortened rare earth-doped fiber con-

nected to the fused-stretch fiber portion on a side connected by the quasi rare earth-doped fiber. The quasi rare earth-doped fiber has substantially equal propagation constant to the rare earth-doped fiber without substantially containing rare earth elements. The optical fiber coupler is fabricated by the steps of jointing a single mode fiber with a rare earth-doped fiber by fusing abutted end faces of both fibers to form a combined fiber; and fusing parallel contact parts of a quasi rare earth-doped fiber and of the rare earth-doped fiber of the combined fiber and then elongating the fused parts in a desired diameter to form a fused-stretch fiber portion.

Fig. 1A



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 25 August 2003	Examiner Galanti, M
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X: particularly relevant if taken alone Y: particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A: technological background O: non-written disclosure P: intermediate document T: theory or principle underlying the invention E: earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D: document cited in the application L: document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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